

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 17 and 18 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16 and 19 are canceled by this amendment.

I. Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (U.S. 6,185,312) in view of Barton (U.S. 6,047,374), and has rejected claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15 and 19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. As noted above, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16 and 19 have been canceled by this amendment, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 17 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, Applicants have rewritten each of these claims in independent form, thereby placing these claims in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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